History of national park related

By FRANCIS E. TYLER

At the July meeting of the Oakville Ruritan Club the members were privileged to hear Mr. Jon B. Montgomery, Superintendent of the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, give a most interesting account of the founding and development of the Park from the original idea of a Monument to the present. Mr. Montgomery's remarks were based on years of research by many individuals as well as his own, and with considerable credit due to Mr. Ron Wilson, the present Park Historian.

It appears that there were many obstacles that are unknown today except by a few of the oldest citizens of the county. Those resolved around land acquisition, ultimate objectives, local prejudice vis-a-vis Northern prejudice, and of course money.

It is impossible in an article of this kind to do full justice to Mr. Montgomery's account, but these are the salient features:

After the War, in April 1865, while other battlefields were being commemorated, nothing was done here in Appomattox for 23 years.

In 1888 a group of officers from the Grand Army of the Republic, led by General S. S. Burdette, undertook to make of this area into a memorial, and in 1889 General Burdette and his associate Samuel M. Bryan moved into the county and purchased 1400 acres of land in and around the Court House. The following year the Appomattox Land Company was organized. Its purpose was to a make the area the site of a National Camp Ground of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The Company was to build a Hotel and Park, and sell lots, endeavoring the while to get Congress to build a monument and roads to points of interest.

The Company was unable, however, to acquire the McLean House, evidently because of inability to come to terms with Mrs. N. H. Ragland, the owner.

In 1891 another group, headed by Captain Myron Dunlap of Niagara Falls, N. Y., acquired the McLean House for this purpose. Some plans for development here. Its original intention was to move the House away and rebuild it as an exhibit at the Columbian World Fair at Chicago.

On February 1, 1892, the Court House building burned. By a special election the voters of the county decided to move the County Seat to a new location at Appomattox Station. Thus in two years the Appomattox Land Company lost the McLean House and faced removal of the County Seat.

In 1893, the McLean House was dismantled preparatory to moving it to Washington, D.C. and re-assembling it as a Civil War Museum.

General Burdette succeeded in getting his proposal for a Memorial into Congress, and legislation was enacted authorizing the location of iron tablets at points of interest. These were placed in 1893, and may still be seen.

In 1895, General Burdette and his group began a new movement to gain recognition of Appomattox, the effort being pointed to secure establishment of a Park under direction of the Federal Government. This campaign ultimately failed because of the inertia or outspoken hostility of Confederate veterans.

Following 1895, came a period of quiescence. Decay of buildings and roads set in.

In 1905, the Legislature of North Caroline endorsed and passed a bill to authorize the erection of a monument marking the farthest advance of the attack line on April 9, and proclaiming North Carolina's claim of "First at Big Bethel, farthest to the front at Gettysburg and Chickamauga, and last at Appomattox." The monument was dedicated in 1905 with appropriate ceremonies, and is the only State marker erected on the Appomattox battlefield.

The decay after 1905 continued until the late 1920's. Then a group of Appomattox residents, including Eula May Burke and Attorney Joel W. Flood (a former Congressman and uncle of Senator Harry Flood Byrd), started a drive to secure a Congressional Act to establish a Park to preserve the landmarks at the battlefield and Old Court House. Due to their efforts, Congressman Harry St. George Tucker introduced a joint resolution calling for the appointment of a Commission to report on recommendations for a National Memorial at Appomattox Court House. Upon passage of this resolution, the President appointed a three-man Commission to work with Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. Pope, U.S. Engineers, as Chairman, with Captain Robert Carter representing the North and Captain Robert A. O'Brien of Appomattox County as Southern Delegate. They met several times and submitted their report.

On June 13, 1930, the President (Hoover) approved a bill, introduced by Congressman Tucker, which carried out the Committee's recommendation for a shaft to be erected on the Court House grounds to mark the termination of the War. This did not meet with local approval.

To carry out the intent of the Act of 1930, the War Department appointed a five-man Commission of Architects and Sculptors, and announced a nation-wide competition for designs of the Appomattox Memorial.

In October the Fine Arts Commission went to Appomattox with the local Congressman and the Governor of Virginia. They reported that a walk around the quiet village had turned the Commission away from interest in a new monument: "It seems to the Commission of Fine Arts that the rebuilding of the McLean House according to the extant plans should be the foundation of the memorial at Appomattox. If this is not done, speculators certainly will seize the opportunity to reproduce the House. It will be exhibited under private control and will become the most important feature of Appomattox. The Commission feels that it will be a mistake to erect at Appomattox a government monument such as those at Jamestown and Yorktown, both of which are obsolete architecturally and lack interest to the public."

In 1933, by Executive Order (Roosevelt), responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the Act of 1930, was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service.

In August 1933, the Appomattox project was placed under the supervision of B. Floyd Flickinger by the Director of the National Park Service.

The idea of restoring the Village structures and rebuilding the McLean House was accepted and gained headway. As a result, on March 27, 1934, a bill was introduced by Representative Patrick Drewry, to create Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Citizens of Appomattox and Lynchburg - 400 in number - met at Appomattox on October 18, 1934, to form the Appomattox Historic Park Association. Colonel Joel W. Flood was named as President.

Congressman Drewry's Bill to amend the Act of 1930, and create Appomattox Court House National Historical Park was passed by Congress and approved by the President (Roosevelt) on August 13, 1935. Senate Amendments changed the name from "Park" to "Monument". Authorization for expenditure of $100,000.00 was carried over from the Act of 1930. However, no funds were actually appropriated, and Congress took no action to provide funds for acquisition of lands.

One of the bureaus of the National Recovery Program was requested to purchase the lands felt essential, and by 1939 all of these had been obtained as earmarked by the National Park Service.

On April 10, 1940, 75 years and one day after the surrender of Lee's Army, Secretary of the Interior Ickes proclaimed the establishment of Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument, with an acreage of 970 acres.

Historian Hubert A. Gurney, of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, was tranferred to Appomattox as Acting Superintendent.

Within two months a Civilian Conservation Corps company of blacks was transferred to the area to undertake work on clearing of grounds and stabilization of buildings.

Coordinated research followed. The Historical Staff purchased the 1893 drawings, and were involved in a three-way investigation of History, Architecture, and Archeology.

By the winter of 1941, working drawings for the McLean House were completed. During this year construction of a by-pass road south of the Village was begun.

The coming of World War II caused suspension of nearly all of these activities. The only thing of note during the War years was transfer of the North Carolina Monument, Tablets, and access road to Government ownership.

In 1946, stabilization repairs were made on all historic buildings in the Village area.

First major product of the Postwar program was renovation and repair of the Bocock-Isbell House. Then followed the reconstruction of the McLean House in 1949, completion of the Village sewage disposal system, and installation of the Village water supply system.

The reconstructed McLean House and the Museum were dedicated on Sunday, April 16, 1950. A crowd estimated at 20,000 heard Dr. Douglas S. Freeman deliver the principal address. Major-General U.S. Grant, III, and Mr. Robert E. Lee, IV, were guests of honor, and cut the ribbon on the McLean House porch to formally open the building to the public.

Through the efforts of Senator Moses, the Commonwealth of Virginia appropriated $5,000.00 for the exercises and for purchase of original or replacement furniture. With this exception, no money was made available to furnish the McLean House.

Mrs. E. A. Watson of Lynchburg undertook the job of furnishing the McLean House, which was substantially accomplished by 1953.

The Korean War forced suspension of all non-military projects.

Repair of Clover Hill Tavern was started in 1953. By 1954 renovation had been completed, public comfort stations installed and reconstruction of the Tavern Slave Quarters and Peers House and a Maintenance Compound completed. Also completed in 1954 was the by-pass road begun in 1941. This work was done by the State Highway Department with funds provided by the National Park Service.

On April 6, 1954, President Eisenhower approved a Bill, sponsored by Congressman W. M. Abbitt, to change the name of the area to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

In 1959, the County Jail, Meeks Store, Woodson's Law Office, and the Isbell House were restored.

In 1963, the Kelly House and the Court House were reconstructed.

On October 21, 1976, Public Law 94-578 was approved. This Act authorized the acquisition of approximately 340 additional acres to protect the Village from modern intrusions.

With two exceptions, the Land Acquisition Program was completed by 1980.

In the Introductory Section of the recently published Handbook of the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Mr. Jay Luvaas says: "Appomattox is a place that one simply must see because it is a part of the American Heritage. It is a place to re-examine our past--and to learn something about ourselves as well."

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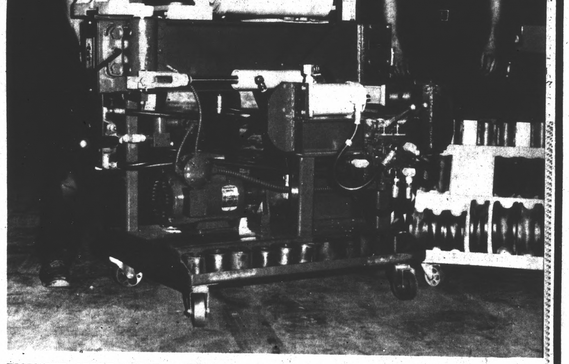

PICTURED ABOVE ARE Doug Belter, James Paulette, and James (Doc) Elder. James Paulette, service manager of Lawson Ford, is pleased to announce that Doug Belter and James Elder have completed their training in Fort Worth, Texas and are now qualified technicians in the field of exhaust systems. The new machine, pictured above, is able to bend and shape pipe to custom fit your vehicle with the correct exhaust system.

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Good news for homemakers

Solving pickle problems

By SHIRLEY W. WALTON
Extension Agent
Common Causes of Pickling Problems

(Note: Because of many requests, this information is being reprinted. This is the second in the series of two articles about pickling.)

Many questions are asked each summer about pickling problems. I wish to share with you some information this week that may save you from having problems with your pickling. It is interesting to note that homemakers are pickling more foods and trying new and different recipes.

Hollow pickles may be caused by too much time elapsing between picking and pickling. A good commonsense rule is to start the processing as soon as possible after picking or purchasing. If pickling cannot begin immediately, refrigerate or spread pickles out where they will be well ventilated and cool.

When pickling cucumbers, fully developed cucumbers will sometimes be hollow when they are sliced when removed from the brine solution. Check whole cucumbers while washing. The hollow cucumbers will usually float. These cucumbers can be recycled into relishes or chunk style pickles.

Soft or slippery pickles may be caused by too little salt or acid. When selecting a recipe, be sure to follow that recipe. Use one that has been tested if possible. Another cause of soft or slippery pickles is when cucumbers are not thoroughly washed. If the blossom end or stem have not been removed, this can cause an enzymatic action which will soften the pickle; therefore, making it undesirable. Sometimes when pickles are packed in a vinegar solution, they tend to absorb the vinegar solution and are not covered. This, too, will cause soft pickles.

Jars should always be sealed airtight. Cap each jar immediately after packing and prior to processing. This, too, is another reason why some pickles become soft or slippery during storage. Insufficient heat treatment can also cause a poor quality finished product.

Dark pickles. Sometimes there may be minerals in your water, especially iron. This can have a darkening effect as you put your pickles in brine or any type of water solution. Never use ground spices in place of whole spices. This, too, can have a darkening effect. An example of this would be using ground cinnamon in place of stick cinnamon or chipped cinnamon for pickling peaches. Never use iodized salt. This, too, has a darkening effect on pickles. Sometimes people use too much spice, overcook or use an iron utensil in preparation, thus causing darkening.

Shriveled pickles also may be caused by using too much salt, too much sugar or vinegar at the start of the pickling process. Again, I wish to remind you, use a standard recipe, one that has been tested and please follow it carefully.

It is extremely important to use a crock or stone jar, unchipped enamel lined pan or a large glass jar, bowl or casserole for fermenting or brining pickles. Never use a plastic container. Vegetables being pickled undergo a physical, as well as chemical changes during the brining or fermentation processes. As the result of these changes, the plastic may be affected, causing undesirable compounds to be formed or leached from the plastic. This, too, is another problem that can cause an inferior product that does not have the right flavor or could even be chemically harmful to you.

It is extremely important in order to get a good pickle product to use the right type of vinegar. Use cider or white distilled vinegar of 4% to 6% acidity. Most of the vinegar on the grocery store shelf now has 5% acidity. Never dilute vinegar unless the recipe specifies. This, too, can cause a problem because vinegar is used as a preservative.

Should you have a pickling or food preservation problem, please call 352-8244 or write the Appomattox County Extension Office, P. O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522. It is always a pleasure to help you with your homemaking questions or problems.

Have a good week, homemakers!

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Barbara Kaye's Ice Cream

Ingredients:
2 small packages instant french vanilla pudding
4 cups milk
1 large can evaporated milk
1 quart sweetened fruit
strawberries, peaches, etc.
or 1 large can crushed pineapple
1½ cups sugar
Additional milk if needed

Mix two small packages of instant french vanilla pudding with the 4 cups of milk. Chill and whip the large can of evaporated milk. Mix whipped evaporated milk with the pudding mixture. Add sweetened fruit and 1½ cups sugar. Pour into a one-gallon freezer container. Add additional milk if necessary to the full line.

NOTE: This recipe can also be used in a five-quart freezer. A small amount of additional fruit and milk will fill this freezer.

Oakville thanks to Barbara Kaye McLaughlin, our Extension Secretary, for sharing this delicious recipe with us.

For those of you who are counting calories, you can use skim milk to mix the french vanilla pudding.

Clothing program slated

The Appomattox County Extension Office will be sponsoring a 4-H Summer Clothing Program which will be conducted daily from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on the dates listed below:

July 13-17 - Pamplin Elementary School.

July 20-24 - Appomattox Elementary School Library.

July 27-31 - Evergreen Community Center.

August 10-14 - Oakville School.

The Appomattox County Extension Staff is pleased to announce that the following adult leaders will be serving as coordinators in their respective communities:

Pamplin - Mrs. Laura McClenny.

Appomattox - Mrs. Debbie Powell.

Evergreen - Mrs. Gaye Stevens.

Oakville - Mrs. Jeanette Drinkard and Mrs. Patty Myrick.

Other adult leaders will be assisting, as well as teen 4-H members.

Items to bring are: a simple-to-sew pattern, fabric (already washed), sewing supplies such as scissors, pins, needles, tape measure, tracing wheel and paper, thread, pin cushion and seam gauge.

4-H'ers participating in this acitivity will model in the County Fashion Revue in late August and the Southside Fair Fashion Revue in September. The clothing program is offered to any 4-H'ers who wishes to sew or improve his or her sewing skills.

If you have questions regarding this, you may call the Appomattox County Extension Office at 352-8244 or one of the class coordinators listed above.

This program is absolutely free to any participant.

TAKE A LOOK - Do you recognize yourself or maybe a friend? This picture of a group of 4th and 5th graders was taken in 1931 at the Oakville School? The teacher was Miss Idelle M. Ferguson. Take a guess! Next week we'll tell you who they are! (Picture on loan by Mrs. Virginia P. Estes, Rice, Va.)

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

Grade-price support rates for 1981-crop-flue-cured tobacco announced-Loan rates, by grade, which producers will receive for 1981-crop flue-cured tobacco delivered for support will range from 90 cents to $2.03 a pound.

The rates are the same for tied and untied tobacco.

The rates reflect an average support of $1.587 a pound, about 12.2 percent above 1980. Changes in 1981 grade rates range from 9 cents to 21 cents above 1980 rates.

The eight grades of flue-cured which were ineligible in 1980 for price support will not be supported in 1981 because those grades are in excessive supply and have light demand. The eight grades are P5L, P5F, P5G, N1L, N1XL, N1GL, N1XG and N1PG.

Loan rates will be discounted 10 percent for any grade of the supported primings which contain moderately more dirt or sand than normal. Tobacco containing excessive sand or dirt will be graded NO-G (no grade).

As in the past, no loans will be available on any tobacco grade NO-G, No-G-F, N2 (second quality nondescript), W (doubtful keeping order), U (unsound) or scrap. Markings of these grades, however, will be charged against the quotas for the farms on which they were produced.

Schedules of the 1981 grades and support rates are available at the ASCS office. **ACP** - The Appomattox County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee has approved more than 80 requests for conservation practices since the beginning of the year. The ACP practices were applied on more than 800 acres of farmland in the county.

The greatest need was for permanent vegetative cover establishment and improvement.

The ACP provides both financial and technical assistance to farmers whose land is affected by wind or water erosion, or pollution problems. ASCS encourages farmers to correct soil and water problems and, where needed, shares the cost of installing these practices.

We have an obligation to protect soil and water resources for the benefit of farmers and the public, and the ACP endeavors to meet this obligation.

Farmers who were approved for conservation practices are asked to report the completed practices as soon as possible. Payments will be issued promptly. If for some reason an approved practice cannot be completed, farmers should notify the county ASCS office immediately so that the funds may be allocated to needed practices on another farm.

Funds are limited and farmers who have not signed up should do so in the near future.

Jordan News

Preaching services will be held Sunday, July 12 at 11 a.m. p.m.

On the third Sunday afternoon of the month, at 4 p.m., the Jets-Unlimited will be in concert here. The program is being sponsored by the Community Youth Choir.

Senior Choir practice Thursday, July 9 at 7:30 p.m. All members please be present.

Alfalfa aid cited

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

There's a new labeling for Paraquat on alfalfa that should be useful to alfalfa growers. Weeds often become a problem, particularly after a stand is three to four years old.

Apply one pint of Paraquat immediately following cutting, (after hay is raked and baled), but no later than five days. This will provide excellent control of annual broadleaf weeds and grasses. If necessary this could be done more than one time per year.

* * *

Nomination forms, rules and regulations for the Feeder Cattle Sales scheduled for Lynchburg are being distributed this week. If yours doesn't arrive stop by and pick up the necessary material.

Last year 8340 head were marketed through the Lynchburg Feeder Association.

* * *

The Appomattox Cattlemen will hold their summer picnic at the Phil and John Harrison farm Saturday, July 11. This is for members and families. All cattlemen are invited to become associated with this group.

A telephone call to our office (352-8244) would surely take some of the guess work out of planning. We do need to know how many plan to attend.

* * *

One afternoon last week I was on the Harrison farm and saw my first solar electric fence charger. I'm told that it stores enough electricity for a 21 day period.

This "stinger" eliminates the need for a battery.

* * *

Bluemold has been identified in Buckingham and Nottaway Counties. Outside of the state it's been found in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Florida. Apparently there is a significant amount in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

If your old plant beds haven't been destroyed don't delay. They serve as a source of inoculum to infect field tobacco.

With the rains over the past week-end we could be developing ideal conditions for bluemold development. Keep a sharp watch!!

* * *

There are a lot of hornworms on tobacco. Take care of them before they take care of you. Treatment should be applied when there are 5 hornworms an inch in length or greater per 50 plants.

Weekly checks need to be made for aphids. They build up fast. Treat when 20 or more plants out of 100 plants have a moderate aphid infestation on the upper leaves. Drop nozzles help direct the spray to the underside of the tobacco leaf.

Grasshoppers are plentiful in hay fields they could begin moving into tobacco this month.

* * *

A Marketing Strategy Workshop is set for August 13-14 in Richmond. This is for grain producers and lenders. A lot of producers have filled there grain bins but are not using the futures market. Plan to get involved in how to use this marketing technique.

The bus for Animal Industry Day at Virginia Tech rolls out of Appomattox at 6:15 p.m., Friday morning. If you can go there still may be room. Give us a call.

* * *

The Appomattox Dairyman's Picnic has been changed to Saturday, August 1.

* * *

Our unoffical precipitation record for June was 2.46 inches. Last rain came on June 7.

On July 3 and 4, we recorded 4.75 inches.

Chestnut Grove

By The Historian

Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Beasley, Jr. attended the twentieth year class reunion of Mrs. Beasley Saturday at Appomattox.

Mrs. Dan Senger, Mrs. Elsie Kidd, Mrs. Mary Senger and Mrs. Alice Senger visited Mrs. Grace Phillips in Charlottesville Monday and had lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Tucker Payne.

Mrs. Annie Megginson, Mrs. Odell Parker and Ruth Routen, all of Lynchburg were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Morris.

Recent visitors of Mrs. Janie Howe were Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Morris.

Faye Harris and Mrs. Pete Senger spent the weekend with their sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Russell Smith in Williamsburg.

Mrs. C. W. Morris is spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bowen in DeMossville, Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Mills of Andersonville visited Sunday in the home of Mrs. Alice Senger.

Chris Hill of Richmond is spending this week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny M. Harris.

Roger Spivey is a patient in Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg. Mrs. Bill Senger is also a patient there. We hope they will soon be able to return home.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris and boys had a picnic supper Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cope at Appomattox.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Morris and girls attended the wedding of her nephew, Wayne Seay and Donna Blon in Richmond Saturday and spent the remainder of the weekend at Lake Anna.

The Senior Adult Sunday School Class of the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church had a picnic supper Sunday at Woolridge Wayside.

Johnny M. Harris attended the State V. F. W. Convention in Richmond over the weekend. Mrs. Harris and boys spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Waycaster of Dillwyn.

Kenneth D. Cook of Prospect spent Friday night with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cook.

Got A News Story? Call 352-8215

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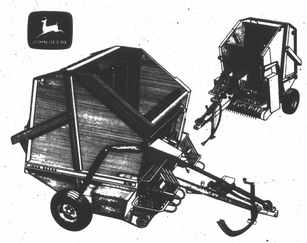

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